

WASHINGTON, DC-San Antonio Members of Congress **Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23)**, a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee and **Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20)** today announced the approval of \$939 million for the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) plan, fully funding the BRAC recommendations in the United States including those for Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio after an amendment was voted on to the ongoing Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 (HR 2642). Additionally, the two announced \$75 million for three separate projects at Fort Sam Houston. The new BRAC funding is in addition to \$7.2 billion previously secured for BRAC for military bases in the United States and around the world.

“Fully funding BRAC has been a top priority for me in great part because of the infrastructure investments, medical training and care that will play an important role in our community and our military at Fort Sam for many years to come,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “As a result of BRAC, San Antonio is making tremendous gains, but our country also stands to benefit from the talented professionals that we will be fortunate to have working among us. The additional funding for the Fort Sam projects will also help our military to be successful.”

“The \$939 million included in this bill to fully fund BRAC for FY 2008 will pay great dividends for San Antonio. This funding has always been a high priority and will continue to be in the future,” said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20). “I look forward to continuing to work with Chairman Edwards of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, who has always been committed to supporting our military bases, to ensure that future funds are appropriated for BRAC efforts.”

The \$939 million are the remaining funds that had been excluded earlier in 2008 from BRAC. The funding will be part of the emergency supplemental bill to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The BRAC funding will be part of the Military Construction funding for which the bill provides \$4.6 billion with over \$210 million for the military child care centers and \$992 million for military hospitals also included.

Among the facilities slated to receive major funding include Brooke Army Medical Center at

Fort Sam Houston, improvements at Camp Bullis in San Antonio, and additional flight training capacity at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio. 4,886 additional personnel and 9,000 additional students are expected to be located in San Antonio by 2011 with this funding. After BRAC is completed in 2011 it is expected that the economic impact will be \$621 million for the San Antonio area.

In the \$75 million in new funding three projects will be funded at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Those projects are:

- **\$47 million** for Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Barracks - For soldiers who do additional training following basic training which can last from seven to 22 weeks.
- **\$7 million** for a Child Development Center
- **\$21 million** for a Burn Rehabilitation Center

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